

## U.S. Department of Defense Travel Regulations to Mexico

20 April 2021

Exercise increased caution in Mexico due to **crime** and **kidnapping**. Some areas have increased risk. Read the entire Travel Policy and Regulations.

DoD member's Local/Unit Commanders cannot authorize country/theater clearance. The SDO/DATT to Mexico has final approval authority for all travel to Mexico.

- **Level 1 – Exercise normal precautions**
- **Level 2 – Exercise increased caution**
- **Level 3 – Reconsider travel**
  - Requires O5 or higher command recommendation before submitting APACS request to DAO Mexico City.
- **Level 4 – Do not travel**
  - Requires O6 or higher command recommendation before submitting APACS request to DAO Mexico City.
  - Ordinary personal leave requests will be denied. SDO/DATT, or acting DATT, has approval authority for emergency leave requests.

DoD individuals are prohibited from entering casinos or adult entertainment clubs throughout Mexico.

DoD members are only permitted to drive across the U.S.-Mexico border into or from the following Mexican states: Baja California, Baja California Sur, Chihuahua, Coahuila and Sonora. Exact details can be found under the state descriptions below.

Due to the high risk of kidnapping, DoD members are only permitted to use "Sitio" Taxis throughout the city and should only use from official Sitio stations or called for from hotel or other. Use of Uber is authorized, but not the Uber pool option. "Libre" taxis are PROHIBITED, Sitio taxis not at official stations are considered "Libre" and are PROHIBITED.

DoD members are prohibited from intercity travel after dark in most areas of Mexico. DoD members are not permitted to use ground transportation from the U.S.-Mexico border to or from the interior parts of Mexico with some exceptions outlined in the individual state's restrictions.

**For detailed information on all states in Mexico, please see below.**

If you decide to travel to Mexico:

- Use toll roads when possible and avoid driving alone whenever possible. In many states, police presence and emergency services are extremely limited outside the state capital or major cities.
- Exercise increased caution when visiting local bars.
- Do not display signs of wealth, such as wearing expensive watches or jewelry.

- Be extra vigilant when visiting banks or ATMs.

U.S. Embassy Mexico City contact information:

Address: Paseo de la Reforma 305

Colonia Cuauhtemoc

Mexico City D.F. Mexico C.P. 06500

Phone Number: 011-52-55-5080-2000 (Embassy switchboard)



### **Aguascalientes state – Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution**

Exercise increased caution due to crime. There are no restrictions on travel for DoD members.

### **Baja California state – Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution**

Exercise increased caution due to criminal activity and violence. Most homicides appeared to be targeted; however, criminal organization assassinations and turf battles can result in bystanders being injured or killed. Due to poor cellular service and hazardous road conditions, DoD members may only travel on Highway 2D between Mexicali and Tijuana during daylight hours.

There are no additional restrictions on travel for DoD members in Baja California, which includes tourist areas in: **Ensenada, Rosarito, and Tijuana.**

### **Baja California Sur state – Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution**

Exercise increased caution due to criminal activity and violence throughout the state, including in areas frequented by U.S. citizens. Bystanders have been injured or killed in shooting incidents related to criminal organization turf battles. Petty crime occurs frequently in tourist areas. There are no restrictions on travel for DoD members in Baja California Sur, which includes tourist areas in: **Cabo San Lucas, San Jose del Cabo, and La Paz.**

### **Campeche state – Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution**

Exercise increased caution due to crime. Police presence and emergency response are extremely limited outside of the state capital. There are no restrictions on travel for DoD members in Campeche state, which includes tourist areas in: **Campeche City, Calakmul, Edzna, and Palizada.**

### **Chiapas state – Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution**

Exercise increased caution due to crime. There are no restrictions on travel for DoD members in Chiapas state, which includes tourist areas in: **Palenque, San Cristobal de las Casas, and Tuxtla Gutierrez.**

### **Chihuahua state – Level 3: Reconsider Travel**

Reconsider travel due to violent crime and gang activity are widespread. While most homicides appear to be targeted, criminal organization assassinations and turf battles between criminal groups have resulted in violent crime in areas frequented by U.S. citizens. Bystanders have been injured or killed in shooting incidents.

DoD members may only travel to the following locations within the state of Chihuahua and with the noted restrictions:

- **Ciudad Juarez:** They may travel at any time to the area of Ciudad Juarez bounded to the east by Bulevar Independencia; to the south by De los Montes Urales/Avenida Manuel J Clouthier/Carretera de Juarez; to the west by Via Juan Gabriel/Avenida de los Insurgentes/Calle Miguel Ahumada/Francisco Javier Mina/Melchor Ocampo; and to the north by the U.S.-Mexico border.

Direct travel to the Ciudad Juarez airport and the factories (maquilas) located along Bulevar Independencia and Las Torres is permitted. Travel to the factory and cattle inspection station in San Jeronimo is permitted only through the United States via the Santa Teresa port of entry; travel via Anapra is prohibited.

- **Chihuahua City:** DoD members may travel at any time to the area of Chihuahua City bounded to the north by Avenida Transformación; to the east by Avenida Tecnológico/Manuel Gómez Morin; to the west by the city limit boundary; and to the south by Route 16/Calle Tamborel.

DoD members may only travel from Ciudad Juarez to Chihuahua City during daylight hours via Highway 45, with stops permitted only at the Federal Police station, the overlook, the border inspection station at KM 35, and the shops and restaurants on Highway 45 in the town of Villa Ahumada.

Travel is permitted to factories (maquilas) outside this area via the most direct route. Direct travel to Abraham Gonzales International Airport is also permitted.

- **Nuevo Casas Grandes Area (including Nuevo Casas Grandes, Casas Grades, Mata Ortiz, Colonia Juarez, Colonia LeBaron, and Paquime):** DoD members must travel to the Nuevo Casas Grandes area during daylight hours through the United States, entering Mexico at the Palomas Port of Entry on New Mexico Route 11 before connecting to Mexico Highway 2 to Nuevo Casas Grandes. Overnight stays are only authorized in the cities of Nuevo Casas Grandes and Casas Grandes.
- **Ojinaga:** DoD members must travel to Ojinaga via U.S. Highway 67 through the Presidio, Texas Port of Entry.
- **Palomas:** DoD members must travel to Palomas via U.S. highways through the Palomas Port of Entry in Columbus, New Mexico.

Mexican authorities in Chihuahua occasionally operate at a heightened level of security, sometimes referred to as “Alerta Roja” (Red Alert). During those periods, U.S. government personnel must receive prior approval and exercise increased caution when visiting Mexican law enforcement offices or installations.

Travel by DoD members to all other areas of the state of Chihuahua, including Copper Canyon, is prohibited.

### **Coahuila state – Level 3: Reconsider Travel**

Violent crime and gang activity are common in parts of Coahuila state. Travel for DoD members is limited to the following areas with the noted restrictions:

- **Piedras Negras and Ciudad Acuña:** DoD members must travel directly from the United States and observe a midnight to 6:00 a.m. curfew in both cities.
- Highway 40 and areas south within Coahuila state.

Travel by DoD members to all other areas of the state of Coahuila is prohibited.

#### **Colima state – Level 4: Do Not Travel**

Colima state has been designated Level 4 due to violent crime, gang activity, and a high per capita murder rate in the restricted areas:

- Tecoman
- Within 20 km of the Colima/Michoacan border
- Highway 110 from the town of La Tecomaca to the Jalisco border

In **Manzanillo**, DoD members are limited to the tourist and port areas.

Level 3 restrictions apply to all other areas.

#### **Durango state – Level 3: Reconsider Travel**

Reconsider travel due to violent crime and gang activity in parts of Durango state. DoD members may not travel to the area west and south of Highway 45.

#### **Estado de Mexico state – Level 3: Reconsider Travel**

Reconsider travel due to prevalent crime both violent and non-violent crime in the Estado de Mexico. Use caution in areas outside of the frequented tourist areas, although petty crime occurs frequently in tourist areas as well. There are no restrictions on travel for DoD members.

#### **Guanajuato state – Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution**

Exercise increased caution due to crime. Violent crime is prevalent in the State of Guanajuato. The majority of gang-related violence occurs in the south of the state, near the border with Michoacán, and is often linked to the organized theft of petroleum and natural gas from the state oil company and other suppliers.

DoD members may not travel to the areas south of and including Highway 45D, **Celaya, Salamanca, and Irapuato**.

#### **Guerrero state – Level 4: Do Not Travel**

Crime and violence are widespread. Armed groups operate independently of the government in many areas of Guerrero. Members of these groups frequently maintain roadblocks and may use violence towards travelers.

Travel for DoD members is limited to the following area with noted restrictions:

**Taxco:** DoD members must utilize Federal Toll Highway (cuota) 95D that passes through Cuernavaca, Morelos, and stay within downtown tourist areas. DoD members may visit Grutas de Cacahuamilpa National Park during the day with a licensed tour operator.

DoD members may not travel to other areas of the state of Guerrero, including Acapulco, Zihuatanejo, and Ixtapa.

### **Hidalgo state – Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution**

Exercise increased caution due to crime. There are no restrictions on travel for DoD members.

### **Jalisco state – Level 3: Reconsider Travel**

Reconsider travel due to crime, violent crime and gang activity common in parts of Jalisco state. In metropolitan Guadalajara, battles for territory control between criminal groups are taking place in areas frequented by U.S. citizens. Shooting incidents between criminal groups have injured or killed innocent bystanders. DoD members may not travel to:

- Within 20 km (12 miles) of the Jalisco/Michoacán border
- Highway 80 south of Cocula to La Huerta
- Highway 544 from **Mascota** to **San Sebastian del Oeste**

There are no restrictions on travel for DoD members to: **Guadalajara Metropolitan Area, Riviera Nayarit (including Puerto Vallarta), Chapala, and Ajijic.**

### **Mexico City – Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution**

Exercise increased caution due to crime. Both violent and non-violent crime occur throughout Mexico City. Use additional caution, particularly at night, outside of the frequented tourist areas where police and security patrol more routinely. Petty crime occurs frequently in both tourist and non-tourist areas.

Due to the high risk of kidnapping, DoD members are only permitted to use “Sitio” Taxis throughout the consular district and should only use from official Sitio stations or called for from hotel or other. Uber is also another however using the Uber pool option is prohibited. “Libre” taxis are PROHIBITED, Sitio taxis not at official stations are considered “Libre” and are PROHIBITED. There are no restrictions on travel for DoD members.

### **Michoacán state – Level 4: Do Not Travel**

Do not travel due to crime, violence and gang-related activities. Travel for DoD members is limited to the following areas with the noted restrictions:

- **Highway 15D:** DoD members may travel on federal toll road (cuota) Highway 15D and to those parts of Michoacán **North of Federal Toll road Highway 15D** and can utilize Highway 15D to transit between Mexico City and Guadalajara.
- **Lazaro Cardenas:** DoD members must travel by air ONLY and limit activities to the city center or port areas.
- **Morelia:** DoD members may travel by air and by land using Highway 15D to Highway 45D ONLY that leads directly to Morelia.

Travel by DoD members to all other areas of the state of Michoacan is prohibited.

### **Morelos state – Level 3: Reconsider Travel**

Reconsider travel due to violent crime and gang activity common in parts of Morelos state. There are no restrictions on travel for DoD members.

### **Nayarit state – Level 3: Reconsider Travel**

Reconsider travel due to violent crime and gang activity, which are common in parts of Nayarit state. DoD members may not travel to:

- **Tepic**
- **San Blas**

There are no restrictions on travel for DOD members to: **Riviera Nayarit (including Nuevo Vallarta, Punta Mita, and Bahia de Banderas) and Santa Maria del Oro.**

### **Nuevo Leon state – Level 3: Reconsider Travel**

Reconsider travel due to violent crime and unpredictable gang activity, which are common in parts of Nuevo Leon state. There are no restrictions on travel for DoD members.

### **Oaxaca state – Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution**

Exercise increased caution due to crime. DoD members may not travel to:

- **Isthmus region of Oaxaca**, defined by Highway 185D to the west, Highway 190 to the north, and the Oaxaca/Chiapas border to the east. This includes the towns of Juchitan de Zaragoza, Salina Cruz, and San Blas Atempa.
- Highway 200 northwest of Pinotepa.

There are not restrictions on travel for DoD members to other parts of Oaxaca state, which include tourist areas in: **Oaxaca City, Monte Alban, Puerto Escondido, and Huatulco.**

### **Puebla state – Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution**

Exercise increased caution due to crime. Gang-related violence is often linked to the organized theft of petroleum and natural gas from the state oil company and other suppliers. There are no restrictions on travel for DOD members.

### **Queretaro state – Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution**

Exercise increased caution due to crime. There are no restrictions on travel for DoD members.

### **Quintana Roo state – Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution**

Exercise increased caution due to crime. Criminal activity and violence, including homicide, remain a primary concern throughout the state. Most homicides appeared to be targeted; however, criminal organization assassinations and turf battles between criminal groups have resulted in violent crime in areas frequented by U.S. citizens. Bystanders have been injured or killed in shooting incidents.

There are no restrictions on travel for DoD members in Quintana Roo state, which include tourist areas in: **Cancun, Cozumel, Playa del Carmen, Tulum, and the Riviera Maya.**

### **San Luis Potosi state – Level 3: Reconsider Travel**

Reconsider travel due to crime. Violent crime and unpredictable gang activity are common in parts of San Luis Potosi state. There are no restrictions on travel for DoD members.

### **Sinaloa state – Level 4: Do Not Travel**

Do not travel due to widespread violent crime. Criminal organizations are based and operating in Sinaloa state. Travel for DoD members is limited to the following areas with the noted restrictions:

- **Mazatlan:** DoD members may travel by air or sea only. DoD members are limited to the Zona Dorada and historic town center and must use direct routes when traveling to and from those locations and the airport and cruise terminals.
- **Los Mochis and Topolobampo:** DoD members may travel by air or sea only. DoD members are restricted to the city and the port and must use direct routes when traveling between these locations and to and from the airport.

Travel by DoD members to all other areas of the state of Sinaloa is prohibited.

### **Sonora state – Level 3: Reconsider Travel**

Reconsider travel due to crime. Sonora is a key location used by the international drug trade and human trafficking networks.

DoD members traveling to and from Hermosillo may travel between the border crossing points of DeConcini and Mariposa in Nogales only during daylight hours and only on Highway 15, including stops at restaurant/restroom facilities along Highway 15.

DoD members may travel to Puerto Peñasco via the Lukeville/Sonoyta crossing during daylight hours on Federal Highway 8, or by using Federal Highway 15 south from Nogales and east via Federal Highway 2 and State Highway 37 through Caborca during daylight hours. DoD members may also travel directly from the nearest U.S. Ports of Entry to San Luis Rio Colorado, Cananea, and Agua Prieta but may not go beyond the city limits without official Consulate Nogales clearance.

DoD members may not travel to:



- The triangular region west of the Mariposa Port of Entry, east of Sonoyta, and north of Altar.
- The district within Nogales that lies to the north of Avenida Instituto Tecnológico and between Periferico (Bulevar Luis Donaldo Colosio) and Corredor Fiscal (Federal Highway 15D), and the residential areas to the east of Plutarco Elias Calles.
- The eastern state of Sonora, which borders the state of Chihuahua: all points along that border east of Federal Highway 17, the road between Moctezuma and Sahuaripa, and State Highway 20 between Sahuaripa and the intersection with Federal Highway 16.
- All points south of Federal Highway 16 and east of Highway 15 (south of Hermosillo), as well as Empalme, Guaymas, and all points south, including Obregon and Navojoa. DoD members may travel to Alamos by air only and may not go beyond the city limits.

In addition, DoD members may not use taxi services in Nogales.

### **Tabasco state – Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution**

Exercise increased caution due to crime. There are no travel restrictions on travel for DoD members.

### **Tamaulipas state – Level 4: Do Not Travel**

Do not travel due to crime and kidnapping. Organized crime activity – including gun battles, murder, armed robbery, carjacking, kidnapping, forced disappearances, extortion, and sexual assault – is common along the northern border and in Ciudad Victoria. Criminal groups target public and private passenger buses as well as private automobiles traveling through Tamaulipas, often taking passengers hostage and demanding ransom payments. Heavily armed members of criminal groups often patrol areas of the state in marked and unmarked vehicles and operate with impunity particularly along the border region from Reynosa northwest to Nuevo Laredo. In these areas, local law enforcement has limited capability to respond to crime incidents. There are greater law enforcement capabilities in the tri-city area of Tampico, Ciudad Madero, and Altamira, which has a lower rate of violent criminal activity compared to the rest of the state.

DoD members not assigned to Matamoros are **PROHIBITED** from traveling to this state unless it is deemed mission essential.

### **Tlaxcala state – Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution**

Exercise increased caution due to crime. There are no travel restrictions on travel for DoD members.

### **Veracruz state – Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution**

Exercise increased caution due to crime. There are no travel restrictions on travel for DoD members.

### **Yucatan state – Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution**

Exercise increased caution due to crime. There are no restrictions on travel for DoD members in Yucatan state, which includes tourist areas in: **Chichen Itza, Merida, Uxmal, and Valladolid.**

**Zacatecas state – Level 3: Reconsider Travel**

Reconsider travel due to crime. Violent crime and gang activity are common in parts of Zacatecas state. DoD members may not travel to the zone south of Highway 45 and west of Highway 23. DoD members may not travel to the entire municipality of Fresnillo, though they may transit both highways through Fresnillo without stopping. There are no other restrictions on travel for DoD members.